

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089737

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, GR (HAYS, WAYNE)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYS TO GREECE

FOR AMBASSADOR TASCA FROM DAVIES

1. WAYNE HAYS IMMEDIATELY AFTER SEEING AMBASSADOR SOROKOS
CALLED AND SAID HE HAD MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) HE HAD BEEN LONG- TIME FRIEND OF GREECE AND GREEK
PEOPLE. AFTER VISITING GREECE IN 1949 HE HAD BEEN
PRINCIPAL CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE
FOR GREECE AND HAD REMAINED SO THROUGH THE YEARS. FOR HIS
SUPPORT HE HAD BEEN AWARDED ORDER OF PHOENIX BY GOG.

B) HE HAD RESISTED EFFORTS OF NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS
TO OUST GREECE UNTIL DEMOCRACY RESTORED AND HAD MANDATE TO
REPORT ON GREECE' S FUTURE STATUS.

C) HE WOULD GO TO GREECE WHETHER PRIME MINISTER
PAPADOPOULOS RECEIVED HIM OR NOT. HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE
WHILE THERE FOR ANY EXCHANGE THE PRIME MINISTER THOUGHT
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USEFUL. OBVIOUSLY, HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE SINCE THIS WAS RELEVANT TO GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP TO ALLIANCE.

D) HE WOULD SEEK NOT TO EMBARRASS THE PM IN ANY WAY BY THIS VISIT; HE WOULD ISSUE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT TO THE NATO STANDING GROUP AND THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT FROM CRYPTIC TELEPHONE CALL FROM EMBASSY I UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING CALL ON PM AND WOULD CONFIRM THIS WHEN TELEGRAM RECEIVED. I ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD PROCEED WITH HIS VISIT IF EMBASSY ONLY ABLE ARRANGE CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CAVALIERATOS. HAYS SAID HE WOULD GO THROUGH WITH ATHENS VISIT IN ANY EVENT AND SAID SOROKOS HAD INDICATED CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SET UP. HE HAD RESPONDED THAT PM NOT CAVALIERATOS WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AND IN ANY EVENT WAS ONLY MAN WHO COULD DISCUSS REGIME'S INTENTIONS.

3. HAYS SAID HE HAD ASKED SOROKOS FOR HIS VIEWS ON KARAMANLIS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO KARAMANLIS " BUT HE DESERTED ME, HE DESERTED GREECE, HE IS A DESERTER."

4. HAYS SAID HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY REACTION WE GOT FROM GREEKS. FOLLOWING CALL FROM GREGORIADES, HAYS INFORMED GREEKS FELT MEETING HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL AND POSITIVE IN THAT CONGRESSMAN MADE CLEAR HIS SINCERITY AS WELL AS HIS SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE. AMBASSADOR SOROKOS WOULD TRANSMIT REPORT TO ATHENS AND HOPED THAT THE TRIP WOULD BE BOTH USEFUL AND POSITIVE. I HAD THEN TOLD GREGORIADES THAT AMBASSADOR TASCA HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT MEETING WITH PM FOR HAYS AT TIME REQUESTED NOT POSSIBLE. GREGORIADES HAD RESPONDED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT RECEIVED SUCH INFORMATION AND HOPED THAT AMBASSADOR'S REPORT WOULD RECEIVE " GOOD POSITIVE REACTION" IN ATHENS.

5. HAYS REAFFIRMED HIS INTENTION TO CONTINUE WITH VISIT; BUT SAID HE WOULD INFORM ME DEFINITELY BY COB FRIDAY.

6. FYI: GREGORIADES ADDED AS PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL THAT MAKAREZOS BE INVITED OFFICIALLY FOR TALKS IN WASHINGTON MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO RECONSIDERATION HAYS MATTER. END FYI.

7. YOU SHOULD KEEP PLUGGING AWAY AT THIS. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH HAYS AT 6:00 PM, HE NOTED HEAVY VOTE THIS AFTERNOON AGAINST ADMINISTRATION ON

CAMBODIAN ISSUE AND SAID IT WOULD NOW BE EASY TO PUSH
THROUGH CONGRESS COMPLETE CLOSE DOWN OF ALL FORMS OF AID
TO GREECE INCLUDING FMS. HE SAID HE CAN TALK WITH KING
CONSTANTINE, KARAMANLIS, AND OPPOSITION LEADERS ANYTIME
HE WISHES. WITHOUT SOME UNDERSTANDING OF REGIME'S OUTLOOK
HE MIGHT WELL DECIDE THIS WAS A PROPER COURSE OF ACTION.
ROGERS

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